

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A method for thermally protecting the electric motor in a variable speed electric paint sprayer having a control and a temperature, and which operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising:

monitoring the temperature of said electric motor; and

reducing said controlled pressure from said user-selected controlled pressure and

continuing to spray when said electric motor temperature exceeds a predetermined level.

2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said change occurs only after said motor temperature has exceeded said predetermined level for a predetermined length of time of motor operation.

3. (currently amended): A method for thermally protecting the electric motor in a variable speed electric paint sprayer having a control and a temperature, and which operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising:

monitoring the temperature of said motor; and

changing the control of said motor from variable speed control to on/off control when  
said motor temperature exceeds a predetermined level.

4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein said change occurs only after said motor temperature has exceeded said predetermined level for a predetermined length of time of motor operation.

5. (currently amended): A method for thermally protecting the electric motor in a variable speed electric paint sprayer having a control and a temperature, and which operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising:

monitoring the temperature of said motor;

reducing the controlled pressure from said user-selected controlled pressure and

continuing to spray when said motor temperature exceeds a first predetermined level; and

changing the control of said motor from variable speed control to on/off control when  
said motor temperature exceeds a second predetermined level.

6. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said second predetermined level is higher than said first predetermined level.

7. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said change occurs only after said motor temperature has exceeded said predetermined level for a predetermined length of time of motor operation.